

“To support and champion Independent Living for persons with disabilities through self-directed services and programs.”

Media Release

Waterloo Region to host National AccessAbility Week Tradeshow and Conference 2026

WATERLOO, ON – Tuesday November 25, 2025 – Independent Living Waterloo Region (ILWR) and community partners of the Life Made Accessible committee will celebrate National AccessAbility Week (May 31-June 6, 2026) when it hosts the 2026 Accessibility Tradeshow and Conference. Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Accessible Canada - National AccessAbility Week Funding – Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability Component, this year's event will take place at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Regional Museum in Kitchener, ON. The tradeshow promises dozens of vendors offering products and services for persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers.

“As the Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, I strongly support the National Accessibility Tradeshow as a vital initiative and a powerful example of how our community can unite to champion accessibility and inclusion. By providing education, resources, and meaningful opportunities, this event empowers individuals living with disabilities and strengthens the fabric of our region while driving progress toward a truly barrier-free society”, said MP Kelly DeRidder, who also intends on attending the show herself next year.

This year's show will present over 70 vendors from across Ontario, including a sensory room showcasing fun, accessible, and educational toys; cutting-edge adaptive technology; a mobile clinic and device testing area. Alongside the tradeshow will be a selection of presentations, interactive workshops, networking opportunities, and food trucks offering a variety of delicious treats.

“An accessible community is a stronger, more connected community. The Region of Waterloo is committed to ensuring residents can participate fully and feel included in all that our region has to offer. National AccessAbility Week is a time to celebrate the progress we've made together and to renew our promise to keep building a region where everyone belongs”, said Regional Chair Karen Redman.

The 2026 Accessibility Tradeshow and Conference will take place on June 1 and 2, 2026. For the duration of the show, the Museum galleries will be free of charge to attendees, and an adaptive dance party will conclude the tradeshow at Tapestry Hall in Cambridge on June 2, hosted by *“A Chance to Dance”*. Pre-registration for the event will be available online via

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Eventbrite in the new year! For more information, visit: ilwr.ca/accessibility-tradeshow/, or follow us on socials @IndependentLivingWR

"The 2026 Accessibility Tradeshow is an important step forward in building more inclusive and accessible communities," said Kitchener Mayor Berry Urbanovic. *"The event gives us an opportunity to create space for learning, connection, and appreciation, bringing attention to the lived experiences and meaningful impact of people with disabilities in our cities and townships throughout our region. We remain committed to building a space for everyone, one where we care for each other and work together to remove barriers. Through accessible programs and strong partnerships, we continue to create opportunities that promote equity, belonging, and quality of life for all."*

The Life Made Accessible committee comprises representatives from Independent Living Waterloo Region, the Region of Waterloo, the City of Kitchener, the City of Waterloo, the City of Cambridge, Community Support Connections, Canadian Hearing Services, KW Habilitation, KW AccessAbility, Extend-a-Family Waterloo Region, and other accessibility advocates and community leaders.

"We are thrilled to support persons with disabilities in Waterloo Region", said Dan Lajoie, Manager of Independent Living Resources at ILWR. *"The 2026 Accessibility Tradeshow and Conference will build on the tremendous success of last year's show and provide an inclusive space for people with disabilities, the people and organizations that support them, and the community at large to access information and connect with each other."*

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